



White River RMP Oil and Gas Amendment FACT SHEET: Greater Sage-grouse Protections

What measures are being considered in the Amendment to protect Greater Sage-grouse?

Specific protections for Greater Sage-grouse are detailed in Table 2-6. Alternatives B and C offer the most protections. Some key protections:

- The BLM would defer oil and gas leasing decisions on about 96,100 acres of sage-grouse habitat north of State Highway 40 on Blue Mountain under both alternatives
- Alternative B includes a No Surface Occupancy stipulation for areas within 0.6 miles of a lek (breeding area). In Alternative C, these areas would be avoided where possible (Controlled Surface Use Stipulation)
- Alternative B would limit development in 225,300 acres of key sage brush habitat to no more than 2 percent surface disturbance of a lease holding. Under Alternative C, these areas would be avoided but there would be no disturbance cap.
- Table 2-6 describes specific disturbance thresholds that could not be exceeded in specific sage grouse habitats under Alternatives B and C.
- Alternative B would expand timing limitations by a month each in breeding and winter ranges.

How do the protections in this plan relate to the Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-grouse EIS?

The BLM Northwest Colorado District began a district-wide Environmental Impact Statement to evaluate additional Greater Sage-grouse protections in early 2012 as part of a national BLM effort to keep the bird from being listed under the Endangered Species Act.

This EIS will evaluate further protections for the Greater Sage-grouse throughout the District and will likely also amend the current White River Resource Management Plan. A Draft of the Northwest Colorado Greater Sage-grouse EIS is anticipated in spring 2013.

Select Sage Grouse Protections by Alternative

	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C	Alternative D
Surface occupancy from leks	Prohibited within 0.25 mile	Prohibited within 0.6 mile	Avoided within 0.6 mile	Prohibited within 0.25 mile
Winter timing limitations	Dec.16 - March 15 in winter concentration areas.	Dec.1 - March 15 in important winter use areas.	Jan. 1 - March 15 in important winter use areas.	Jan. 15 - March 15 in important winter use areas
Nesting timing limitations	April 15 - July 7 in nesting habitat when more than 10 percent is negatively affected	April 1 - July 15 within suitable nesting/early brood habitat	April 15 - July 7 within suitable nesting/early brood habitat	April 15 - June 15 in suitable nesting/early brood habitat